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A New Lizard of the Genus *Ophisaurus* from Mexico

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In a recent article (1954, p. 148) on glass lizards, I referred to a battered specimen of *Ophisaurus* No. 15473 in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, said to be from Veracruz, and suggested that it might represent an undescribed form. Since that paper was written, another *Ophisaurus* has been collected in Mexico, which exhibits at least one characteristic that seems to justify giving it a name. of its own. I wish to call it

Ophisaurus incomptus new species

Diagnosis. An *Ophisaurus* differing from other North American members of the genus by the following characters taken in combination: the whitish markings on the dorsal scales occupy the edges rather than the centers of the scales, and there are no vertical white bars in the neck region.

Type. Louisiana State University 4886, a female, from seven miles south of Valles, San Luis Potosi, Mexico; collected November 15, 1951. Snout-vent length 231 mm.; length of original tail remaining 90 mm., length of regenerated tail 24 mm.; front of head badly damaged, obscuring most scale characters.

Discussion. This specimen is remarkably similar to *O. ventralis*, the only distinguishing character that I have been able to find being the absence of vertical neck bars in the Mexican form. The name *incomptus* refers to this lack of adornment.

O. incomptus is given full specific standing even though it appears to be more closely related to *ventralis* than either is to other species of the genus. This action seems necessary in view of the vast geographic separation of the two forms (nearly 1000 miles), and the sparse information available on *incomptus*. Less is assumed in the erection of a new

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species than in the establishment of a subspecies. It may be pointed out that although this new species is based almost entirely on a single color pattern difference, it is precisely such characters that have been found to be the most reliable means of differentiating among the other species of this genus.

The AMNH specimen (15473) from Laguna de los Cocos, Veracruz, may be tentatively assigned to the species *incomptus*, although I should not be surprised if it eventually were shown to be still another distinct form. It is recorded from sand dunes, a habitat completely different from the deciduous forest area in which the Valles specimen was taken. My previous work with glass lizards in southeastern United States indicates that in the genus *Ophisaurus* habitat differences are closely linked with morphological ones. Correlative with this, it should be mentioned that the Veracruz specimen is somewhat more elongate than the one from Valles, although it is impossible on the basis of one specimen from each area even to suggest that any such minor differences of proportion represent an actual population difference. Perhaps more specimens will become available in the future and thus slightly reduce the nebulousness of our knowledge of these animals.

Literature Cited

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- 1954** **A systematic study of the North American lizards of the genus**
Ophisaurus. *Amer. Midi. Nat.*, vol. 51, no. 1, p. 133-171.